

**Rowe School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requires minutes for all school committee and subcommittee meetings. The recorded minutes are open to the public for inspection within 10 days of the meeting. Minutes are recorded to provide a brief overview that reflects the subject matter discussed and any decisions made. Motions made are to clearly indicate who made the motion and who seconded the motion. Record who was in favor, who opposed, or who abstained. The names of any person(s) appearing before the committee are to be indicated.

Documents:

Letter from Charles Garbiel to the Rowe School Committee re: Physical Education
May 20, 2011 letter from Carol Lively to the Rowe School Committee re: School Lunch being charged \$1.00
E-mails re: School Committee Meeting being scheduled for May 24, 2011 (6 pages).
May 24, 2011 fax from Judy Willis to Laurie Laffond re: School Reach Call to cancel the school committee meeting.
May 11, 2011 letter from Bill Loomis to Rowe Voters re: Changes that Mr. Loomis would like to happen if elected to the School Committee.
February 14, 2011 letter from the Rowe LEC to the Rowe School Committee re: FY12 budget suggestions.
Draft April 12, 2011 Superintendent Performance Goals for school year 2010-2011

1. Call to Order:

Bill Loomis called the meeting to order at 6:05pm
Roll Call: Bill Loomis, Lisa Miller and Laurie Laffond were present.

2. Audience of Citizens/Citizens Comments:

Jack Williams, Paul McLatchy III, Noel Abbott, Lenny Laffond, Cindy Laffond, Ellyn Packard, Jack Packard, Laurie Pike, Ellen Miller, Barbara Griffin, Patricia Tierney and Sharon Hudson were present.

****Lenny Laffond welcomed the new school committee.**

****Laurie Pike asked if there is a way for the school committee to get the list of names of the people who were on the principal search committee - could this information be made public? There are rumors that several of them are family and friends of the school committee members who did not support Bob Clancy.**

****Bill Loomis will look into this and get the information and it will be presented at the next school committee meeting on June 14, 2011.**

3. Correspondence:

A. Letter from Charles Garbiel to the Rowe School Committee re: Physical Education
– See Appendix A

B. May 20, 2011 letter from Carol Lively to the Rowe School Committee re: School Lunch being charged \$1.00 - See Appendix B

A motion was made by Bill Loomis and seconded by Lisa Miller to forward this letter to Joanne Blier, Mohawk Business Manager. Unanimous yes vote.

This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

C. Emails from Bill Loomis, Lisa Danek Burke, Lisa Miller and Ellen Miller re: tonight's school committee meeting. Lisa Danek Burke was reluctant to have this meeting and Bill Loomis believed Superintendent Michael Buoniconti was also reluctant to have this meeting. Bill Loomis had Ellen Miller ask Town Counsel if there was any reason why this meeting could not take place and it looks like there isn't any reason that one school committee member could not schedule a meeting. – See Appendix C

D. May 24, 2011 fax from Judy Willis to Laurie Laffond re: School Reach Call to cancel the school committee meeting dated May 24, 2011. – See Appendix D

4. New Business:

- A. There will be a staff meeting tomorrow Wednesday, May 25, 2011 at 3:20pm with Superintendent Michael Buoniconti. Bill Loomis will send an email to Superintendent Buoniconti saying he and Lisa Miller will be attending the meeting.
- B. Bill Loomis discussed some of the changes he would like the school committee to work for: - See Appendix E
- Restore the School Committee's powers to set policy for our school. The Superintendent is the employee of the School Committee, not the other way around.
 - Return control of the meeting agenda to the Rowe School Committee with input from the Superintendent, the Principal, the Local Educational Council (LEC) and the Staff.
 - A School Committee that is respectful and responsive to citizen participation throughout our meetings.
 - Creation of a healthy, fear-free atmosphere for our staff in which they feel safe to express their concerns and opinions.
 - Wider participation in the evaluation process of the Superintendent, including involvement from the staff and LEC.

These items will be discussed with Superintendent Buoniconti and the remaining school committee member. The committee would also like to make up goals and see how they do at the end of the year.

5. Election/Appointment of School Committee Officers:

In the email that was sent out on May 20, 2011 Bill Loomis stated that the school committee would be having a meeting as a quick notice and was waiting for Lisa Miller to sign the papers. Lisa Danek Burke responded by saying she could not attend that meeting. Out of courtesy, Bill Loomis was going to hold off electing officers until Lisa Danek Burke was present, just out of common decency. But after the problems the committee had today Bill Loomis would like to make a motion to hold the elections tonight.

A motion was made by Bill Loomis and seconded by Lisa Miller to hold the elections tonight for school committee positions. Unanimous yes vote.

- Lisa Miller nominated Bill Loomis as chair and Bill Loomis seconded that nomination. Unanimous yes vote.
- Bill Loomis nominated Lisa Miller as vice chair and Lisa Miller seconded that nomination. Unanimous yes vote.
- It is believed (from prior meetings) that the Chairperson has the right to appoint the secretary so Chair Bill Loomis appointed Lisa Danek Burke secretary and was seconded by Lisa Miller. Unanimous yes vote.

Other items that need to be addressed will wait until the June 14, 2011 School Committee Meeting for guidance from the Central Office.

6. FY2012 Budget Items:

- School Lunches –Bill Loomis stated that he attended the Friday, May 20th LEC meeting and a member of the LEC stated that this item was in the letter as a way to try and gather more money to try and save the principal's position. The LEC would like to continue to see Free Lunches.
- School Nurse Hours – The community feels strongly that we need a full time nurse because of the distance we are from any major medical facility. Also, information was handed out regarding Managing Life Threatening Food Allergies by the Mass Dept of Ed in 2002. – See Appendix F

- Physical Education Schedule – The Physical Education piece is discussed with Mr. Garbiel's letter and a handout from Lisa Miller – Physical Education in Schools – Both Quality and Quantity are Important. – See Appendix G
Included in the packet that was handed out tonight was a copy of the February 14, 2011, LEC letter that was sent to the School Committee. At that time the letter was not read and was tabled until it was finally addressed in March, after the budget was already set. Everyone who signed that letter was in full agreement with the issues discussed above. – See Appendix H

- Bill Loomis will gather information for the school lunch issue.
- Lisa Miller will gather information for the Physical Education issue.
- Lisa Miller will work with Barbara Griffin on the Nurse issue.

These items will be added to the agenda and presented at the next school committee meeting.

7. MASC Membership and Conferences:

- A. Bill Loomis and Lisa Miller have both signed up to attend the conferences for new school committee members.

8. Superintendent Goals for 2010-2011:

- A. The superintendent performance goals for the FY2010-2011 school year were set at the April 12, 2011 School Committee Meeting. The concern is for the FY2011-2012 school year. The school committee would like to have the performance goals and superintendent evaluation established late summer beginning of fall so Superintendent Buoniconti is working on the goals throughout the school year. Bill Loomis stated that the committee will have to do some research because the education law states that the superintendent can negotiate his evaluation with the school committee. – See Appendix I
A motion was made by Bill Loomis and seconded by Lisa Miller that the school committee have the superintendent's goals and evaluation forms established by October 1, 2011. Unanimous yes vote.

9. Superintendent Evaluation form for 2011-2012:

- A. Please see above under Superintendent Goals for 2010-2011

10. School Committee Agenda Responsibility and Format:

- A. Bill Loomis would like to pursue the issue of the agenda with the Central Office. The School Committee may not take over the agenda but would like to have the final input on the agenda. Basically the agenda would be sent to us from the Central Office with their items on it and the school committee would then add their items. The committee would also like to have a place on the agenda for New Business. At this time there is not a place on the current agenda for new items brought to the committee.

The committee would also like to schedule the Executive Session, Report of the Superintendent and the Business Manager's Report at the beginning of the agenda. If at that time the Superintendent and Business Manager would like to leave they would be able to.

Lisa Miller spoke and would like to have the school committee handle the agenda and have the Central Office add their items to our agenda.

Noel Abbott spoke and also feels it would be in the best interest if the school committee would maintain control of the agenda.

A motion was made by Lisa Miller and seconded by Bill Loomis that the Rowe School Committee make the agenda and ask Superintendent Michael Buoniconti for his input and to add to our agenda. Unanimous yes vote.

11. Discuss June 2011 Meeting Agenda:

- A. Please see above under discuss meeting agenda.

12. Potential reduction in hours for Music and Art Programs:

- A. There is discussion at the Central Office that Joan Fitzgerald is not going to be teaching at the Rowe School next year and Gina Glover who is the vocal music teacher will be doing both vocal and instrumental music programs. We are not sure at this time if this is a reduction in hours at the school.
- B. There has been a change in hours for the Art Teacher, Nora Zale at the Hawlemont School. We are not sure if anything has been discussed for the Rowe School art teacher position.
- C. Lisa Miller stated that it is believed that we will not be having a Reading Recovery Program. The School Committee had commented that the school would not be losing any services and this is one that might be affected. This item needs to be looked into.
- D. Rick Williams, who is on the Board of Assessors, checked into what it is costing tax payers of the Town of Rowe and came up with the number of \$8.34 per child, per year, per household.
- E. Ellyn Packard spoke that she is afraid that we are getting two different legal opinions and she is concerned that the Central Office will try and say this meeting is not legal. Bill Loomis responded that the committee has emails to prove that the committee got legal advice from town counsel.

13. LEC Presentation:

- A. Not at this time.

11. Staff Presentation:

- A. Not at this time.

12. Presentation/Citizen Comment:

- A. Ellen Miller spoke that she was very upset that legal counsel would tell vice chair Lisa Danek Burke that it would be illegal to hold this meeting. Also, she believes that Rowe School's interests are not being serviced with legal counsel that also represents the Mohawk District.
- B. Lisa Miller brought up the Mohawk Spanish Teacher. The cost of this program is \$15,000.00. Is the program really necessary? Paul McLatchy III stated that he spoke to some of his former classmates and they felt the program was beneficial.
 - Lisa Miller will research this item and it will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

13. Adjournment:

- A. **A motion was made by Bill Loomis and seconded by Lisa Miller to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm.** Unanimous yes vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Laffond

Approved:

William Loomis, Chairman

Lisa Miller, Vice Chairman

Lisa Danek Burke, Secretary

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to express my concerns in the proposal to reduce physical education at the Rowe elementary school from 2 days a week to 1. As the physical education teacher at Rowe Elementary and Hawlemont Regional school for the past 6 years I can see first hand the difference in the children when they receive physical education twice a week versus once a week.

At Hawlemont Regional School 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade come to physical education once a week. Over the years I have seen the vast difference in skill level between the students at the schools. The students receiving physical education twice a week are retaining new skills taught to them at a much faster rate. This gives the students of Rowe an advantage by having two times a week to practice skill development versus once a week.

From a "teaching a unit" point of view, an 8 class unit, (soccer, basketball, baseball ect.,) takes 4 weeks to complete currently at Rowe since the students have 2 physical education classes per week. This same unit takes 8 weeks to complete at Hawlemont. This means students will miss out on certain activities and sports skills simply due to lack of time to teach them. If Rowe were to reduce physical education to once a week, the students would roughly receive half the sports skills they currently receive.

Lastly, from a personal trainer's point of view, a student that receiving physical education once a week receives less life long fitness skills, they do half as many muscular strength and endurance exercises. They receive half as much cardio vascular activity. They do half as much stretching for flexibility, and they do half as much motor pattern development. This has a huge impact on a child's life over the 7 to 8 years they attend the school. Imagine doing half as much activity for 7 years and then try to compete with another student who receives physical education 2 or more times a week. You're basically 3 and half years behind them.

I urge you to keep physical education at the Rowe Elementary School at twice a week. I would recommend at least 3 times a week. Please do this for the students and the overall fitness, health and well being of the children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charles J. Garbiel II

Item 3. b

To: The Rowe School Committee

From: Carol Lively, Cafeteria Manager

5/20/11

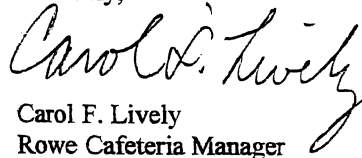
Dear Members of the Rowe School Committee,

It is my understanding that Rowe School will be charging \$1 per lunch for the students next year. As the Cafeteria Manager, I have a few questions, that I would like you to address.

1. How much does the Software License for the Nutri Kids program cost? After speaking with Liz Buxton, she informed me that it is installed on my computer, but we do not own the license.
2. How much time has been allotted to my position to handle the transactions and the cash handling. (Or is someone else going to be responsible for the accounting portion.)
3. Will the cash go to Mohawk to be handled or does it go to the Rowe Town Offices for deposit, like it is currently done with the money for the adult lunches.
4. Will the lunches be broken down by parts? example: Would just a hamburger be 25 cents, but the whole meal equal \$1? Or is it \$1 no matter how much food is served?
5. At a previous School Committee Meeting, it was stated that the Cafeteria could generate \$5000 by charging for lunch, I believe that is assuming that every child would purchase lunch everyday. In general, there is an average of 6-10 kids per day who bring home lunch., depending on the meal. Was this taken into account when figuring on the \$5000?
6. Do you feel that free lunch was another incentive for Choice Parents to bring their children to Rowe School? If we charge lunch for say a family of 3 at \$1, that is \$15 per week. How likely is it that families might decide to pack their own lunch? Or even worse not come to Rowe School.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, and hopefully answer my questions. I regret not being at the meeting,, buy I have a medical appointment at the same time.

Sincerely,



Carol F. Lively
Rowe Cafeteria Manager

ITEM 3-C
E. MAILED

upcoming - PAGE FOUR
(PAGE)

Bill Loomis

From: "Lisa Danek Burke" <ldbeng@verizon.net>
To: "Bill Loomis" <biloom@verizon.net>; "Lisa & Bob" <bobclancy@hotmail.com>
Cc: "Laurie" <llaffond@mohawkschools.org>; <jwillis@mohawkschools.org>;
<mb@mohawkschools.org>; "Bob Clancy" <bclancy@mohawkschools.org>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 9:42 AM
Subject: RE: School Committee meeting

Bill,

The Rowe School Committee voted a meeting schedule for the year on June 8, 2010, set for the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm.

4 As sitting Vice-chair I carry the duties of Chair until reorganization. On advice of Counsel, I do not authorize the meeting you have called for May 24, 2011. The next meeting of the Rowe School Committee will be as per the previously voted schedule - Tuesday June 14, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the Rowe School.

If there are items you would like on the agenda, please feel free to send them to me.

Sincerely,
Lisa

From: Bill Loomis [mailto:biloom@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 1:51 PM
To: 'Lisa & Bob'; Lisa Danek Burke
Cc: Laurie; jwillis@mohawkschools.org; mb@mohawkschools.org; 'Bob Clancy'
Subject: Re: School Committee meeting

3 Lisa: I have already posted the meeting and I am head out the door for the weekend so I am going to let it stand. Because you won't be able to make the meeting I will ask Lisa M. that we hold off on the elections as we all should be present for that. The other New Business items are mainly just for discussion and hopefully to determine action items to address at future meetings.

----- Original Message -----

From: Lisa Danek Burke
To: 'Bill Loomis'; 'Lisa & Bob'
Cc: 'Bob Clancy'; mb@mohawkschools.org; jwillis@mohawkschools.org
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 12:21 PM
Subject: RE: School Committee meeting

2 Bill:

Just getting your emails from last night. I wanted to let you know right away that I am not able to attend a meeting for next Tuesday, May 24th.

Lisa

1 **From:** Bill Loomis [mailto:biloom@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2011 4:22 PM
To: Lisa & Bob; Lisa Danek Burke
Cc: Bob Clancy; mb@mohawkschools.org; jwillis@mohawkschools.org
Subject: School Committee meeting

Based on the fact that our 5/9/11 meeting was very short, our 5/10/11 meeting was cancelled and the tradition is not to have a July meeting, I felt we should have a meeting in addition of our June scheduled meeting. We could address items that are in addition

5/24/2011

①

CONTINUED?

to the Superintendent, Financial and Principal reports. These reports could be presented at our normal June meeting. I am suggesting we have a meeting next week on Tuesday, 5/24/11, at 5:00 PM at the Rowe Elementary school. Please let me know if you are available by tomorrow noon so I or Judy can post the meeting. If you are not available let me know of a day and time next week you are. Some items I would like to discuss are: 1) election/appointment of school committee officers, 2) set day, time and place for regular scheduled meetings, 3) authorize the chair to appoint subcommittees, 4) discuss school lunches, school nurse hours and PE scheduled time, 5) MASC membership and conferences, 6) Superintendent Goals for 2010-2011, 2011-2012 Superintendent Evaluation form, 7) School Committee agenda responsibility and format, 8) potential reduction in hours for music and art instruction and 9) LEC and Staff presentations if they desire. Please let me know what you would like to talk about and I will list on the agenda. The agenda will include "New Business" so if you think of something after the agenda is posted we will talk about it if time allows. Thank you.

ITM 5-4
E-MAILS

PAGE 2

Bill Loomis

From: "Ellen Miller" <admin@rowe-ma.gov>
To: "Bill Loomis" <biloom@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 12:44 PM
Subject: FW: Sch Comm meeting
Please see message from Attorney Goldberg below.

Ellen B Miller, Rowe Town Coordinator
321 Zoar Rd, PO Box 462, Rowe MA 01367
Ph 413-339-9944 - Fx 413-339-5316

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Lauren F. Goldberg [mailto:LGoldberg@k-plaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 12:36 PM
To: admin@rowe-ma.gov
Cc: Janet H. Pumphrey
Subject: RE: Sch Comm meeting

(5) Ellen, I have reviewed the attached materials. In my opinion, there is nothing in the Open Meeting Law that would prohibit any member of the School Committee from posting a meeting to be held on a date not on the "regular" School Committee meeting schedule. The law simply requires that the meeting be posted at least 48 hours in advance, and that the notice contain a list of all things that the "chair" might reasonably anticipate to be discussed at that meeting. In my opinion, this language does not restrict someone other than the chair from calling a meeting, but instead, requires any person posting such a meeting to include on the notice the topics that such person reasonably anticipates will be discussed thereat.

Note that even if the meeting is called by someone other than the Chair, the notice must include a list of things anticipated by the individual posting the meeting. At such a meeting, however, the Chair, or the Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair, would preside. Typically, if the Chair and the Vice-Chair are not present, the person who has served on the board the longest would preside. If there is no one present with longer years of service on the board, the older person would preside.

With all due respect to the person serving as Vice-Chair, and to the Superintendent, in my opinion, provided that the meeting notice was posted at least 48 hours in advance, calculated as required by the Open Meeting Law, the School Committee may meet and take action consistent with that set forth in the meeting notice provided that a quorum of members of the Committee so appear.

Please let me know if there are any further questions.

Very truly yours,

Lauren F. Goldberg, Esq.
Kopelman and Paige, P.C.
101 Arch Street, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 556-0007 (voice)
(617) 654-1735 (fax)
lgoldberg@k-plaw.com

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5/24/2011

Bill Loomis

ITM 3. C.
E-MAILS

PAGE 3

From: "Lisa Miller" <lisalynnmler@gmail.com>
To: "Bill Loomis" <biloom@verizon.net>
Cc: <jwillis@mohawkschools.org>; <lmlaffond@gmail.com>; "Lisa Danek Burke" <ldbeng@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 2:52 PM
Subject: Re: School Committee meeting

I checked with the Mass. Attorney General's office. There was no reason to not hold the meeting scheduled for today. I will see those who attend tonight at 5 pm.

Thank you.

Lisa Miller

On Tue, May 24, 2011 at 1:45 PM, Bill Loomis <biloom@verizon.net> wrote:

> Sorry I stated in e-mail Tuesday, May 25, 2011. I should have stated
> Tuesday, May 24, 2011.

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Bill Loomis

> To: jwillis@mohawkschools.org ; lmlaffond@gmail.com

> Cc: Lisa Danek Burke ; Lisa Miller

> Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 1:37 PM

> Subject: Re: School Committee meeting

> Laurie: Through my research and phone contacts I see no reason why I can

> not call a meeting of the School Committee as long as there was a 48 hour

> notice. Therefore please disregard today's fax from Judy Willis instructing

> you to initiate a call to cancel the meeting tonight @ 5:00 PM.

>

> Judy: Judy I assume Michael's e-mail is still not working, therefore please

> inform him, that the Rowe School committee meeting is still scheduled for

> May 25, 2011 at 5:00 PM at the Rowe school.

5/24/2011

E-MAILS

PACR 4


Bill Loomis

From: "Ellen Miller" <admin@rowe-ma.gov>
To: "Bill Loomis" <biloom@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:20 PM
Subject: RE: School Committee meeting

Per town counsel, there is no prohibition of any member of a board or committee calling a meeting of that board or committee.

⑧ Certainly one member of a board or committee cannot hold up the workings of that board or committee if that person (usually the committee chair) is unwilling to call a meeting. And conversely, if any member of a board or committee (including the chair) called a meeting of that board or committee, and a majority of the members were not in favor of it, they would have several options: not show up, hence no quorum; show up and vote to adjourn or postpone meeting; etc. We're still in a democracy.

Ellen B Miller, Rowe Town Coordinator
321 Zoar Rd, PO Box 462, Rowe MA 01367
Ph 413-339-9944 - Fx 413-339-5316

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

1722 J & L
E-MAILS

PALM 5

Bill Loomis

From: "Ellen Miller" <admin@rowe-ma.gov>
To: "'Bill Loomis'" <biloom@verizon.net>
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:55 PM
Subject: When does an elected official's term expire?
Following info from conversation today with state elections division....

Q. For town elections, does person whose term has expired serve until newly-elected individual is sworn in?

9 A. YES, unless you have a by-law giving specific dates of terms; i.e., July 1 to June 30, or so. If newly elected person gets sworn in the day after election, the predecessor is done. If newly elected officer doesn't get sworn in until say July 15th, or so, the predecessor serves until then. However, I imagine the predecessor did not want to continue to serve, he/she would have the option of resigning, so they would not have to serve until the new person got sworn in.

Q. Is there any formal notification to the predecessor that the newly elected officer has gotten sworn in?

A. NO.

Ellen B Miller, Rowe Town Coordinator
321 Zoar Rd, PO Box 462, Rowe MA 01367
Ph 413-339-9944 - Fx 413-339-5316

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

5/24/2011

Item 3. d.
FAX

From: Lisa Danek Burke [mailto:ldbeng@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 23, 2011 9:42 AM
To: 'Bill Loomis'; 'Lisa & Bob'
Cc: 'Laurie'; 'jwillis@mohawkschools.org'; 'mb@mohawkschools.org'; 'Bob Clancy'
Subject: RE: School Committee meeting

Bill,

The Rowe School Committee voted a meeting schedule for the year on June 8, 2010, set for the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm.

As sitting Vice-chair I carry the duties of Chair until reorganization. On advice of Counsel, I do not authorize the meeting you have called for May 24, 2011. The next meeting of the Rowe School Committee will be as per the previously voted schedule - Tuesday June 14, 2011 at 6:30 pm at the Rowe School.

If there are items you would like on the agenda, please feel free to send them to me.

Sincerely,

Lisa

Laurie Laffond,

As Secretary to the School Committee
please send a School Reach call
letting parents know that the next
School Committee meeting will be
June 14th not tonight as previously
announced.
Thank you!

UPPERMERE

Bill Loomis
108 Hazelton Road
339-5701

May 11, 2011

To Rowe Voters:

I am announcing my write-in candidacy for the 3-year School Committee position.

I care very deeply about the future of our Rowe Elementary School because I have seen firsthand how the quality of the Rowe School has positively affected the lives of my children and grandchildren. I am very concerned about recent events that have negatively affected the Rowe School.

I am running for this position because I believe that I am the best candidate to create a majority on the committee to restore control of our school to our town.

Some of the changes I would work for:

- Restore the School Committee's powers to set policy for our school. The Superintendent is the employee of the School Committee, not the other way around.
- Return control of the meeting agenda to the School Committee with input from the Superintendent, the Principal, and the Local Educational Council (LEC).
- A School Committee that is respectful and responsive to citizen participation throughout our meetings.
- Creation of a healthy, fear-free atmosphere for our staff in which they feel safe to express their concerns and opinions.
- Wider participation in the evaluation process of the Superintendent including involvement of staff and LEC.

I have worked many long hours and interviewed many parents, principals, superintendents and teachers since being appointed to the School Committee in February. I have also served many years as selectman, on the finance committee, and on other town committees. I believe I am well prepared to serve.

I am asking for your vote on May 14th for the 3-year position on the School Committee.

Enclosed are stickers for that purpose. Or you may write in "Bill Loomis".
Remember to also check the box on the ballot beside where you paste the sticker or write in my name.

Thanks for your attention and help. **Together we can regain control of our school.**

Sincerely,

Bill Loomis

From managing Life threatening food allergies by the Mass dept of ed in2002:

Food allergies are presenting increasing challenges for schools. Because of the life-threatening nature of these allergies and the increasing prevalence, school districts and individual schools need to be ready for the entry of students with food allergies.

Food Allergy Prevalence

- Food allergies affect 8% of children under age three, 6%-8% of school-age children and 2.5% of adults.*
- Food allergy prevalence has increased 55% in the last five years.*
- 40%-50% of those persons with a diagnosed food allergy are judged to have a high risk of anaphylaxis* (a life-threatening allergic reaction). *Every food allergy reaction has the possibility of developing into a life-threatening and potentially fatal anaphylactic reaction. This can occur within minutes of exposure to the allergen.*
- Children may be allergic to more than one food.

*(Sampson, HA, "Food Allergy", from *Biology Toward Therapy, Hospital Practice*, 2000: May.)

Characteristics of Food Allergy Reaction in Students

- Allergic reactions to foods vary among students and can range from mild to severe life-threatening anaphylactic reactions. Some students, who are very sensitive, may react to just touching or inhaling the allergen. For other students, consumption of as little as one five-thousandth of a teaspoon of an allergenic food can cause death.
- Eight foods (peanut, tree nut, milk, egg, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish) account for 90% of total food allergies, although any food has the potential to cause an allergic reaction.
- Most, but not all childhood allergies to milk, egg, soy and wheat are outgrown by age 5.
- Peanut and tree nuts account for 92% of severe and fatal reactions, and along with fish and shellfish, are often considered to be lifelong allergies.

Impact on the School

Every school district should expect at some point to have students with food allergies. Schools must be prepared to deal with food allergies and the potential for anaphylaxis.

- *Accidental* ingestion of the offending allergen occurs most often at school.
- A recent study from the journal, *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, states that 1 in 5 children with food allergies will have a reaction while in school.
- The student with an undiagnosed food allergy may experience his/her first food allergy reaction at school.
- When a physician assesses that a child's food allergy may result in anaphylaxis the child's condition meets the definition of "disability" and is covered under the Federal Americans with Disability Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and may be covered under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) if the allergy management affects the students ability to make educational progress.

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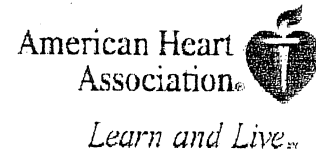
Adequate plans and staff, who are knowledgeable regarding preventive measures and well prepared to handle severe allergic reactions, can save the life of a child. *Total avoidance of the substance to which the student is allergic is the only means to prevent food allergy reactions.*

Every school building with a student at risk for anaphylaxis should have a fulltime school nurse.

- School districts should develop policies and protocols regarding the care of students with life-threatening allergies. These policies and protocols should address: (a) measures to reduce exposure to allergens; and (b) procedures to treat allergic reactions. See Appendix A: *Suggested Components of a School District Policy and Protocols Addressing the Management of Students with Life-Threatening Allergies*.
- The school nurse should oversee the development of an Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) for each student with the diagnosis of a life-threatening allergic condition. The school nurse should be responsible for organizing and conducting a meeting with the student's parent(s), the student (if appropriate), the classroom teacher, food service manager and other personnel as determined by the student's needs. The IHCP must be developed prior to the student's entry into school or immediately after the diagnosis of a life-threatening condition and should include an Allergy Action Plan (AAP) that addresses the management of anaphylaxis (see Appendix G).
- Schools should ensure that all staff entrusted with the care of students receive basic education concerning food allergies (see Appendix C, *Information on Food Allergies and Anaphylaxis*), and have training in the prevention and management of allergic conditions (see Appendix D, *Prevention and Management of Allergic Conditions* and Appendix E, *Response to Emergencies*).
- An effective food allergy program needs the cooperation of parents, teachers, counselors, school nutrition food service director, administrators, school nurses, school physicians, primary care physicians, extracurricular advisors, bus/transportation personnel, and any staff that might be present where children can be exposed to the food allergens that can trigger their extreme reaction. See Appendix F for roles of Specific School Personnel in the Management of Children with Life-Threatening Allergies (LTA).
- Schools should be prepared to manage an anaphylactic emergency by:
 - (a) having responsible school personnel designated and trained to respond (*see Section V of the Massachusetts Regulations Governing the Administration of Epinephrine by Auto Injector to Students with Diagnosed Life-Threatening Allergic Conditions (LTA)*).
 - (b) identifying clearly the student's needs.
 - (c) having the physician's orders on file.
 - (d) maintaining a current supply of epinephrine by auto-injector in at least two easily accessible locations and/or carried by the student when appropriate.

(Please note: epinephrine should never be kept in a locked cabinet.)

*For the purposes of this document school nurse is a registered professional nurse certified by the MA Department of Education.



Physical Education in Schools - Both Quality and Quantity are Important

A Statement from the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Heart Association on Physical Education

Daily quality physical education in the nation's schools is an important part of a student's comprehensive, well-rounded education program and a means of positively affecting life-long health and well-being. The optimal physical education program will foster a lifetime commitment to physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle. Ultimately, improved coordinated school health programs, of which physical education is a central component, will augment other prevention efforts and help to reverse the growing epidemic of childhood obesity which threatens to undo decades of progress in the fight against cardiovascular and other diseases. Effective efforts made now will help children avoid a lifetime of chronic disease and disability.

Why Physical Education Is So Important – It's Not Just the Activity Itself

Regular physical activity is associated with a healthier, longer life and with a lower risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and some cancers.¹ Current recommendations are for children to engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. Children spend over half their day in school, so it is reasonable to require that they should get at least 30 minutes of that time in school. Physical education should be an important part of that requirement and does more than provide some minutes of moderate-vigorous activity. It also teaches students how to integrate exercise into their lives in order to establish a lifetime of healthy living. Unfortunately, only 3.8% of elementary, 7.9% of middle, and 2.1% of high schools provide daily physical education or its equivalent for the entire school year.² Twenty-two percent of schools do not require students to take any physical education at all.³ Since childhood obesity rates continue to rise across the country, there is public support for more physical education in schools. The vast majority of parents of children under 18 (95%) think physical education should be part of a school curriculum for all students in grades K-12.⁴

In a systematic review of physical education programs that increased the amount of time that students were physically active, students' aerobic and physical fitness increased.⁵ Additionally, the benefits of modifying the school physical education curricula were experienced across diverse racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups, among boys and girls, elementary- and high-school students, and in urban and rural settings.⁶ A six-month exercise program among obese children and adolescents reduced body mass index, diabetes risk factors and low-degree inflammation and demonstrated that regular exercise can restore blood vessel function and improve cardiovascular risk factors.⁷ Evidence from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study showed that physical education programs do have an impact in combating childhood obesity in young overweight girls. Just an extra hour of exercise a week lessened obesity in this group,⁸

A growing body of evidence demonstrates the benefits of physical education beyond fitness. Several large-scale studies found improvements in students' academic performance and cognitive ability with increased time spent in physical education.⁹ Recent studies have found a

strong correlation between aerobic fitness and academic performance as measured by grades in core subjects and standardized test scores.^{10,11} Additionally, children who spent time in physical education in place of a classroom activity performed no worse academically than students not enrolled in physical education.¹² Physical activity also has a positive impact on tobacco use, insomnia, depression, and anxiety.¹³ Normal-weight children have lower rates of school absenteeism than obese children.¹⁴

The quality of the physical education program, not just the time spent on the class, is the foremost concern. Physical education policy should prioritize quality while, simultaneously and/or subsequently, trying to increase the amount of time physical education is offered in schools.

Ways to Address Quality Physical Education

According to NASPE, a high quality physical education program should enhance the physical, mental, and social/emotional development of every child and incorporate fitness education and assessment to help children understand, improve and/or maintain their physical well-being.

Any legislation and/or regulation to promote quality physical education should consider the following:

- require all school districts to develop and implement a planned, sequential physical education curriculum k-12 that adheres to national and state standards for health and physical education;
- hire a physical education coordinator at the state level to provide resources and offer support to school districts across the state;
- offer regular professional development opportunities to physical education teachers which are specific to the field and require teachers to keep current on emerging technologies, model programs, and improved teaching methods;
- add requirements for fitness, cognitive, and affective assessment in physical education that are based on student improvement and knowledge gain;
- assure that programs have appropriate equipment and adequate indoor and outdoor facilities;
- require that students are active in moderate-vigorous physical activity for the recommended amount of time;
- disallow substitutions for physical education with activities such as marching band or varsity sports;
- do not allow students to opt out of physical education to prepare for other classes or standardized tests; and
- require physical education for graduation and count the physical education grade as part of students' overall grade-point averages.

The Quantity of Physical Education

National organizations including the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, NASPE, the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Institute of

Medicine recommend 150 minutes of physical education each week for children in elementary school and 225 minutes per week for middle school and high school. At least 50 percent of physical education class time should be spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity. The American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Heart Association will continue to support these recommendations as they are revised and updated with the evolving science.

By addressing the quality, quantity and intensity of physical education across the country—the educational component as well as the amount of activity and time spent—policymakers, decision makers, and teachers will maximize children's potential for a lifetime of physical activity, health and wellness.

¹ Eyre H, Kahn R, Robertson RM, Clark NG, Doyle C, Hong Y, Gansler T, Glynn T, Smith RA, Taubert K, Thun MJ. Preventing cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes: a common agenda for the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Heart Association. *Circulation* 2004 Jun 29;109(25):3244-55.

² CDC.School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2006. *Journal of School Health*. 2007; 27(8).

³ CDC.School Health Policies and Programs Study (SHPPS) 2006. *Journal of School Health*. 2007; 27(8).

⁴ *Public Attitudes toward Physical Education: Are Schools Providing What the Public Wants?*

A Survey Conducted by Opinion Research Corporation International of Princeton, NJ,

for the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. 2003.,

http://www.aahperd.org/naspe/pdf_files/survev_public.pdf.

⁵ Kahn EB, Ramsey LT, Brownson RC, Heath GW, Howze EH, Powell KE, Stone EJ, Rajab MW, Corso P. The effectiveness of interventions to increase physical activity: A systematic review. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*

May 2002; 22(4):73-107

⁶ Kahn EB, Ramsey LT, Brownson RC, Heath GW, Howze EH, Powell KE, Stone EJ, Rajab MW, Corso P. The effectiveness of interventions to increase physical activity: A systematic review. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*

May 2002; 22(4):73-107.

⁷ Meyer, AA, Kundt, G, Lenschow, U, Schuff-Werner, P, Kienast W. Improvement of early vascular changes and cardiovascular risk factors in obese children after a six-month exercise program. *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 2006; 48:1865-1870, (Published online 16 October 2006).

⁸ Datar A, Sturm R. Physical education in elementary school and body mass index: Evidence from the early childhood longitudinal study. *American Journal of Public Health*. Sept. 2004; 94,9.

⁹ Active Living Research, A National Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. *Active Education: Physical Education, Physical Activity and Academic Performance*. Research Brief. Fall 2007. Available online at <http://www.activelivingresearch.org/resourcesearch/summaries>.

¹⁰ Coe DP, et. al. Effect of physical education and activity levels on academic achievement in children. *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise* 2006;38:1515-1519.

¹¹ Castelli DM, et. al. Physical fitness and academic achievement in third- and fifth-grade students. *Journal of Sport & Exercise Physiology* 2007; 29:239-252.

¹² Sallis, JF, McKenzie, TL, Kolody, B., Lewis, M., Marshall, S., Rosengard P. Effects of Health-Related Physical Education on Academic Achievement: SPARK. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*. 1999. Vol. 70, No.2, pp. 127-134.

¹³ Suitor CW, Kraak VI. *Adequacy of Evidence for Physical Activity Guidelines Development: Workshop Summary*. Institute of Medicine. Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2007.

¹⁴ Geier AB, et. al. The Relationship Between Relative Weight and School Attendance. *Obesity*. 2007 15: 2157-2161.

Item 6

3/8/11 LEC report

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

86 Pond Road
Rowe, MA 01367

School website: <http://mohawkschools.org>

Bob Clancy, Principal
Voice: 413.339.8381
FAX: 413.339.8621

MEMO

TO: Rowe School Committee
Cc: Michael Buoniconti
FROM: Rowe School Local Education Council
DATE: February 14, 2011
RE: FY12 Budget Suggestions

At the Friday, February 11, 2011 Local Education Council meeting held at Rowe School the LEC took the following vote:

The Rowe Elementary School Local Education Council requests the Rowe School Committee separate the Rowe School District budget into two parts;

1. The Rowe Elementary School preschool through grade six
2. The Mohawk Middle School/High School and Franklin County Technical High School

The LEC also requests and recommends that a full time school nurse be maintained. The LEC recognizes the importance of a full time school nurse to be available during all school hours due to episodic needs and management of chronic conditions such as asthma. Rowe School is approximately one hour from the nearest medical facility and this factor alone we believe justifies a full time school nurse. The LEC also recognizes that the school nurse may be utilized for other duties, including, but not limited to, the teaching of our health and social curriculum, and work as required in the regular classroom with the delivery of tiered instruction as a teacher/aide, as the nurse can be pulled from a class when needs arise.

The LEC also requests that the existing 2-days of preschool through grade six physical education programming be continued understanding that each day's full time equivalent may be reduced. Physical Education is viewed by the LEC as an integral part of a child's school program to help them in their start towards better life choices.

The LEC also suggests that the School Committee begin to charge students for lunch, perhaps at \$1.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these important requests.

The Rowe Elementary School Local Education Council; Jeffery Parent (Rowe Parent), Lisa Miller (Rowe Parent), Kirk Miller (Choice Parent), Julie Seaver (Choice Parent), Jodie Brown (Community Representative), Laurie Pike (Teacher Representative), Bob Clancy (Principal), and the Rowe monthly teacher rep for February; Barbara Griffin.

APPROVED 4/11

Appendix I
ITEM 8.

DRAFT 4-12-11

SUPERINTENDENT PERFORMANCE GOALS

SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011

ROWE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Goal 1: Sustain and grow high quality education in the Rowe School District by hiring a principal with strong educational leadership and organizational management skills.

Goal 2: Enhance student safety and learning by creating, implementing, and revising the District Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan.

Goal 3: Sustain and grow high quality education in the Rowe School District by increasing the fiscal efficiency of school operations in a manner that will enable the Rowe School to adapt to increasing outside fiscal pressures.

WITH OPTION TO
ADD IF GOAL CAN BE
ACCOMPLISHED BY 8/1/11